

Dear Honorable Members of the Select Committee on Children,

I am writing in SUPPORT of HB 5184, AAC Dissection Choice. As a parent of two teens at South Windsor High School, this bill is particularly important to my family. We are a family of ethical vegans, who are compeled to abstain from dissection from an ethical standpoint. I would not want my children, or any other children, to be punished for following an ethic of compassion and respect for life.

Not only are humane alternatives available, but these alternatives are supported by the National Science Teachers Association and the National Association of Biology Teachers. Personally, I find these "alternatives" to be preferable. To teach children that life is disposable does not help to create a humane, caring society. In fact, my son recounted to me his horror at the attitude in the classroom during a dissection. The students made fun of animals being dissected. Perhaps this was to help them cope with a grim situation. But in any case, it is desensitizing and sad.

As you probably know, the vast majority of medical schools no longer even use animal models. Therefore, it makes no sense to me that our students in CT would not have the right to refuse this archaic practice in favor of more modern, humane methods of learning.

Thank you for your attention. I appreciate your help in passing this bill.

Sincerely,
Julia Caruk
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